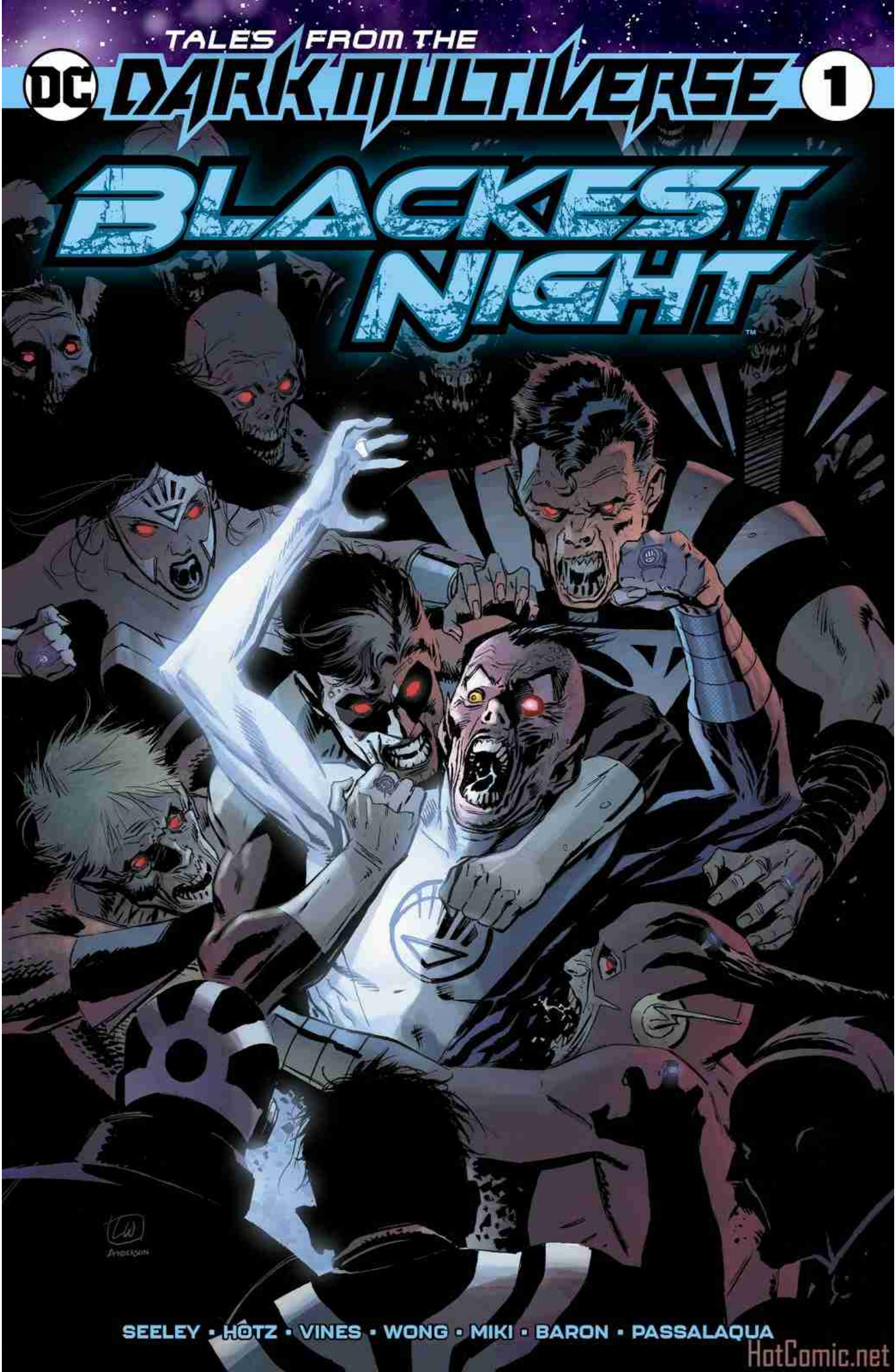
TALES FROM THE

DC DARK MULTIVERSE 1

BLACKEST NIGHT™



SEELEY • HOTZ • VINES • WONG • MIKI • BARON • PASSALAQUA

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TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE

BLACKEST NIGHT

TIM SEELEY
WRITER

KYLE HOTZ
PENCILS

DEXTER VINES, WALDEN WONG & **DANNY MIKI**
INKS

DAVID BARON & **ALLEN PASSALAQUA**
COLORS

TOM NAPOLITANO
LETTERS

LEE WEEKS & BRAD ANDERSON
COVER

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TWISTED WORLDS THAT SHOULD NOT EXIST!

TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE

THE DARK MULTIVERSE DISTORTS THE BIGGEST DC STORIES OF ALL TIME!

Written by
SCOTT SNYDER, KYLE HIGGINS, JEFF LOVENESS, TIM SEELEY, JAMES TYNION IV & MAT GROOM

Art by
JAVIER FERNANDEZ, BRAD WALKER, KYLE HOTZ, AARON LOPRESTI & TOM RANEY

Covers by LEE WEEKS

Prestige format one-shots

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THE UNIVERSE IS NIGHT.
MOST OF IT COLD, DARK NOTHING, PUNCTUATED BY OCCASIONAL BRIGHT LANTERNS.
BUT THE UNIVERSE IS NOT THE BLACKEST NIGHT.
I KNOW, FOR I AM TEMPUS FUGINAUT.
IT IS MY DUTY TO WALK THE DARK BACK ROADS OF THE MULTIVERSE, SEEKING TEARS IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME, AND PRESERVING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.
ON THIS PATH, I HAVE SEEN DARKNESS.
AND I HAVE SEEN THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS' GRIMMEST PROPHECY...
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...WHEN THE DEATH-GOD, NEKRON, UNLEASHED THE POWER OF THE BLACK LANTERN, AND USHERED IN THE CREATION OF A NEW CORPS.
THE BLACK LANTERNS ATTACKED OTHER LANTERN BEARERS AND SPREAD DEATH ACROSS THE GALAXY...
...UNTIL THEY WERE MET BY A UNITED FORCE OF LANTERNS--THE COLOR CORPS--LED BY A GREEN LANTERN...
...HAL JORDAN.
EVEN JORDAN'S MOST BITTER ENEMY, THE FORMER GREEN LANTERN THAAL SINESTRO, BATTLED AT HIS SIDE WITH HIS YELLOW RING OF FEAR.
AS THE FIGHT RAGED ON, SINESTRO CALLED UPON THE POWER OF LIFE ITSELF...
...AND HE BECAME THE FIRST WHITE LANTERN, POSSESSED OF GOD-LIKE POWER.
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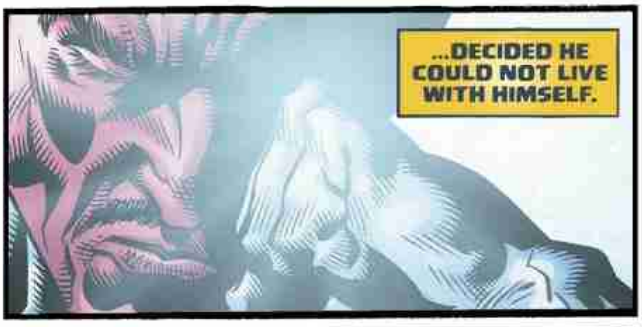
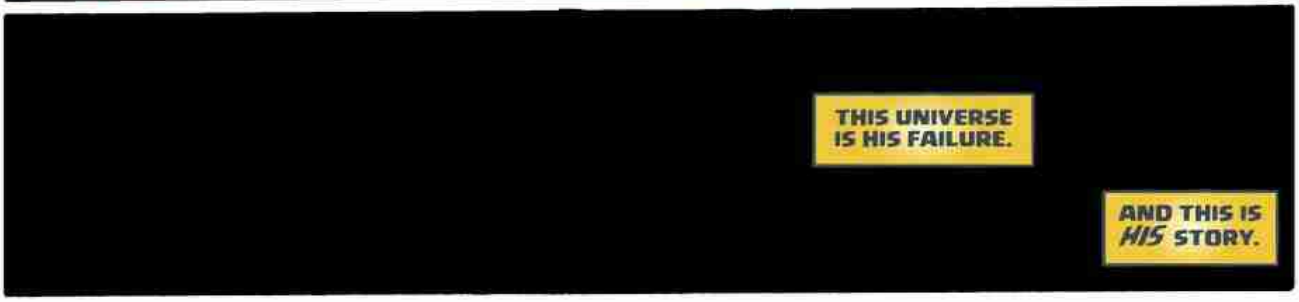
BUT IN THE UNIVERSE'S MOMENT OF NEED, SINESTRO CHOSE TO SHARE THE POWER.
AND WITH THAT CHOICE, A NEW CORPS OF WHITE LANTERNS WAS BORN...
...AND THE BLACK LANTERNS WERE DEFEATED.
BECAUSE OF SINESTRO'S CHOICE, HAL JORDAN SAVED THE DAY ONCE AGAIN...
...IN YOUR UNIVERSE.
BUT THIS IS NOT THAT STORY...

IN ANOTHER WORLD, SINESTRO, FACED WITH SHARING GODLIKE POWER WITH THE MAN HE BELIEVED HAD STOLEN HIS DESTINY...
...REFUSED.
BUT SINESTRO'S CONTROL OF THE LIFE RING WAS WEAK.
AND THE COLOR CORPS FAILED TO STOP NEKRON FROM DESTROYING THE WHITE ENTITY.
THE INVIGORATED UNDEAD BEINGS SWEPT OVER THE HEROES, KILLING THEM...
...AND RESURRECTING THEM AS BLACK LANTERNS, AN ARMY GROWING EXPONENTIALLY BY THE SECOND.

AND THUS, IN THE WAR LIGHT AND DARK...
...OF LIFE AND DEATH...
...LIFE LOST.

AND THAAL SINESTRO, KNOWING HE WAS RESPONSIBLE...


...DECIDED HE COULD NOT LIVE WITH HIMSELF.


THIS UNIVERSE IS HIS FAILURE.
AND THIS IS HIS STORY.

SAN FRANCISCO.
19 DAYS LATER.
SPLK
OUTTA ALL'A THE PLACES ON THIS SCUMBALL PLANET, YA HAD TO BE HERE?
ONLY THING LOBO HATES WORSE 'N' TEEN TIGHTENS IS THE STINKIN', HEART-GOBBLIN' VARIETY.
STARTIN' TA THINK YOU MIGHT NOT BE WORTH THE FRAGGIN' SCRATCH, LI'L CHICKIE.
SPLK
AGHK!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO TITANS TOWER...
I--I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO.
I FOR ONE AM REALLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU, DOVE.

PLEASE. DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, CYBORG.
COME ON, DAWN. TRUST ME, I WAS HALF DEAD FOR YEARS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS MISSING.
BESIDES, YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE NOT BLESSED WITH A BLACK RING, DO YOU?
YOU'VE NEVER DONE WELL ALONE.
HOPE, VICTOR.
HAWK
SOMEONE HAS TO HAVE HOPE.
KRRNCH
HNF!
YEAH, WELL, I HOPE YA KNOW I CAME A NUT-FUZZ AWAY FROM LEAVIN' YA TO THESE LI'L PRANCIN' LADS, CHICKIE. BUT I TOOK A JOB, 'N' I GAVE MY WORD...
CRNCH
...AN' THE MAIN MAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD.
SHRRRP
CYBORG!

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MM. CZARNIAN IS SUCH A RARE DELICACY.
CHMP
NHNG! FEETAL'S GIZZ!
NOW YOU LISSEN HERE, STARBUTT!
YOU TAKE A BITE OUTTA ME--
--YOU GET A GUT-ACHE LIKE YOU AIN'T NEVER HAD!
SPLUK
AIIIEEGH!
SHRPP
HEY!
FLESH.
LOBO OF CZARNIA.
DIE.
NNH.
NOPE. CZARNIANS CAN REPLICATE THEIR CELLS WHENEVER THEY FEEL LIKE IT. WORKS REAL NICE FOR INFECTIONS.
AND THIS LI'L BUG AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON THEM HYPER-HERPES I GOT FROM THAT DOMINATOR DOMINATRIX ONCE!
D...DDD...
OKAY, OKAY, TWICE!

CONNECTION SEVERED.
TINK
NO! LIFE IS PAIN! LIFE POLLUTES THE UNIVERSE! NEKRON DEMANDS DEATH!
SPLUCH
AND WE DELIVER IT.
GHK.
JOIN NEKR--AH. OW.
ANNGH!
CASSANDRA SANDSMARK OF EARTH.
THE FRAG?!
VICTOR STONE OF EARTH.
BARTHOLOMEW ALLEN OF EARTH.
GARFIELD LOGAN OF EARTH.
AIEEEGH!
AFTER A TIME, BLACK LANTERNS BECOME USED TO THE NUMBNESS OF DEATH.

LIVE.
MY WHITE RING REMINDS THEM OF HOW MUCH LIFE CAN HURT.
BUT IT'S NO CURE, I'M AFRAID. THE EFFECT IS ONLY TEMPORARY...
...BEFORE MY BLACK RING DRAWS THEM BACK TO OBLIVION.
DIE.
AAAGH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? IT BURNS!
GOD, NO.

DIE.
DIE.
DIE.
DIE.
PLEASE-- JUST KILL ME! DON'T LET IT TAKE ME AGAIN--
REBIRTH AND DEATH, OVER AND OVER...
...AS LONG AS I WILL IT.
NOOO!
THEY'RE IN AGONY. PLEASE. STOP IT.
HUH. RUMOR 'ROUND THE GALAXY WAS YOU WERE ROCKIN' A YELLOW RING, SINESTRO. NOW LOOKS TO ME LIKE YER HALF HEART-MUNCHER.
THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE... GREEN LANTERN CORPS FAILED TO STOP NEKRON. I WAS ATTACKED IN THE BATTLE...NEARLY KILLED. BUT I WAS CHOSEN...
AND THE WHITE RING KEEPS THE INFECTION AT BAY.
EITHER WAY YOU'RE GONNA WANNA TELL ME WHAT BRINGS YA HERE, 'FORE I PUT A BOOT UP TA MY KNEE IN YER BIFURCATED BUTT.
QUITE SIMPLY, HER. SHE IS DOVE, THE AVATAR OF PEACE.
I DETECTED HER WITH MY WHITE RING. SHE IS, QUITE LITERALLY, THE LAST LIVING WOMAN ON EARTH...
AS SHE APPEARS TO BE COMPLETELY IMMUNE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE BLACK RING...
...I'D LIKE TO RUN SOME EXPERIMENTS. IT'S POSSIBLE HER POWERS ARE THE KEY TO ENDING THIS PLAGUE.
YEAH, AND I'D LIKE TO KILL EVERY LOSER ON MY ENTIRE HOME PLANET A SECOND TIME.
BUT IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN, 'CUZ WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
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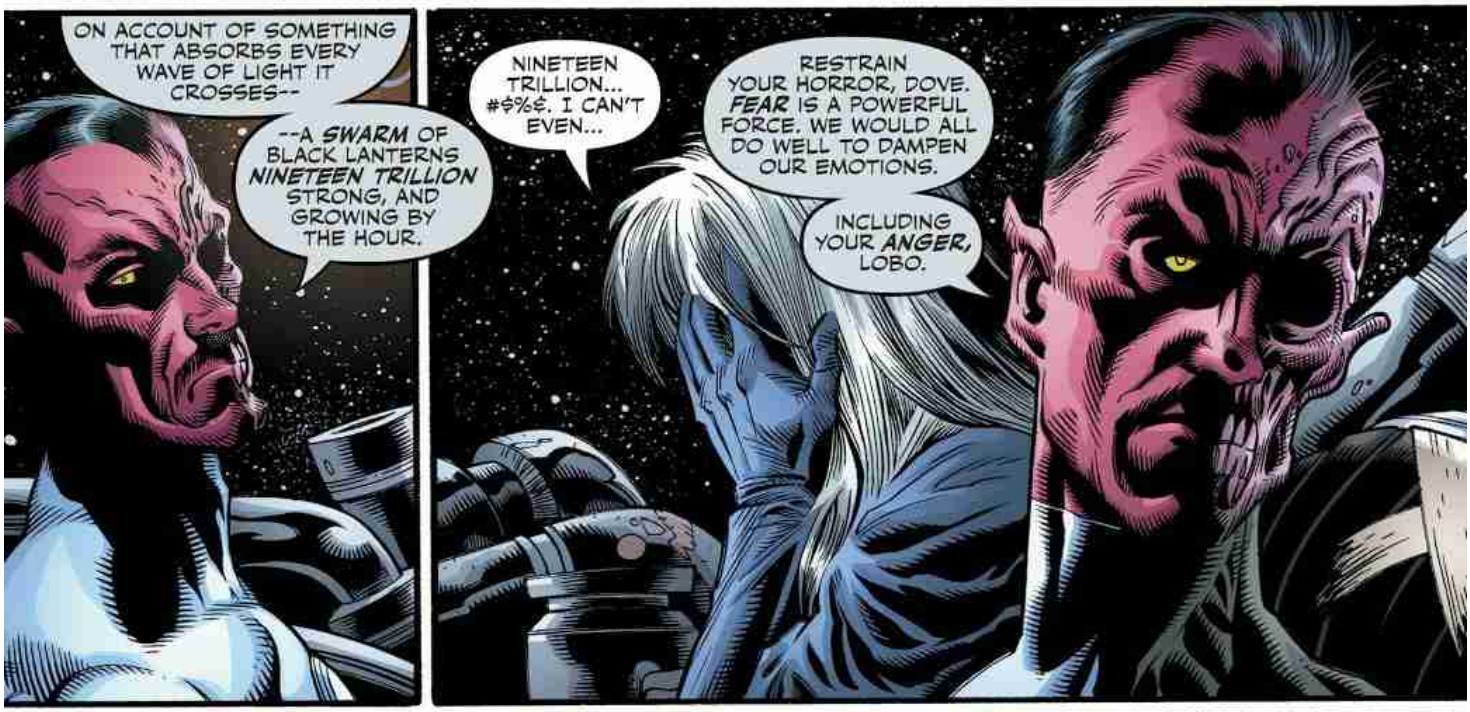
SHE GOES WITH ME, HALF-STACHE. I WAS HIRED FOR BIG CREDS TO BRING 'ER TO *TAKRON-GALTOS.*
THE PRISON PLANET? BY *WHOM?*
DIDN'T SAY. DON'T CARE.
IT'S JUST AS WELL. PERHAPS YOUR PATRON HAS SOME INSIGHT INTO HER IMPORTANCE, AND IS WILLING TO SHARE HIS OR HER RESOURCES.
IF NOT, THERE'S ALWAYS *TORTURE.*
I ASSUME THIS *MONSTROSITY* IS YOURS, LOBO?
'ER NAME'S *RAMONA,* AND DON'T YOU GET YOUR GRAPE GREASE ON HER!
YOU TWO THUGS THINK YOU CAN JUST TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I'M NOT EVEN *HERE?*
D-DAWN. DON'T LUH-LEAVE US...
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS. YOUR *ONLY* FRIENDS LEFT.
JOIN US.
THE LORDS OF CHAOS AND ORDER *CHOSE* ME TO BEAR THESE POWERS... AND I'VE SURVIVED ON MY OWN FOR WEEKS IN THIS HELL.
NO ONE TELLS ME WHERE I GO.
WE KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO YOUR BEST FRIEND...

...YOU ABANDONED HIM, TOO...
GET ME THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
AND DON'T EVEN TRY THAT TESTOSTERONE-AGGRO CRAP WITH ME, LOBO.
BUT--
YOU SAW WHAT HE DID TO THE LANTERNS WITH HIS RINGS.
YOU NEED SINESTRO AS MUCH AS HE NEEDS ME.
FRAG
FRAGGIN' BASTICH BOSSY CHICKIE--
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO PILOT CAREFULLY, LOBO.
THE THANAGARIANS SENT THEIR ENTIRE WAR FLEET TO EARTH HOPING TO STEM THE BLACK LANTERN PLAGUE...
VAROOOM
NOW THEIR REMAINS LITTER THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.
OH GOD! WATCH--
YEAH, YEAH.

KSST
YA WANNA TELL ME ABOUT HOW I CAN'T TRUST RAMONA'S WAVE SENSORS ONCE I GET PAST THE HELIX NEBULA TOO, YA FRAGGIN' BACKSEAT DRIVER?
CAN'T TRUST THEM? WHY?


ON ACCOUNT OF SOMETHING THAT ABSORBS EVERY WAVE OF LIGHT IT CROSSES--
--A SWARM OF BLACK LANTERNS NINETEEN TRILLION STRONG, AND GROWING BY THE HOUR.
NINETEEN TRILLION... #$%$. I CAN'T EVEN...
RESTRAIN YOUR HORROR, DOVE. FEAR IS A POWERFUL FORCE. WE WOULD ALL DO WELL TO DAMPEN OUR EMOTIONS.
INCLUDING YOUR ANGER, LOBO.

"BLACK LANTERNS, LIKE ALL LANTERN BEARERS, HARNESS THE POWER OF THE EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM.

"THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO ARE RESURRECTED VIA THE RINGS' BLACK LIGHT FOLLOW AN EMOTIONAL TETHER BACK TO THEIR WAITING BODIES.

"THAT CONNECTION, MANIPULATED BY NEKRON, IS WHAT GIVES THEM THE MOTIVATION TO ACCEPT THEIR HORRIFIC TRANSFORMATIONS."

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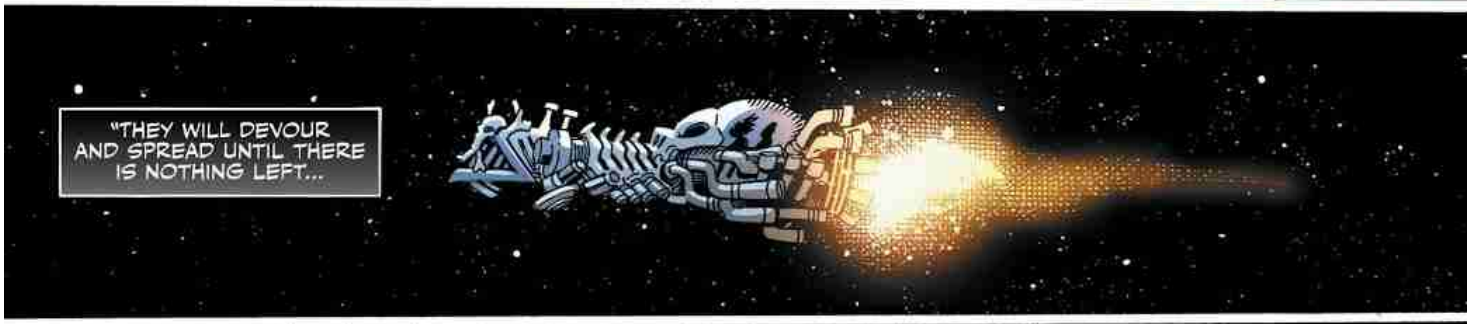
"EVEN AFTER THE WIDESPREAD DISSEMINATION OF THE RINGS, THEY SEEK THESE TETHERS STILL, CORRUPTED AND DISTORTED THOUGH THEY MAY BE.
"*LOYALTY* TO A BROTHER. *HATE* FOR AN ENEMY.

AND ONCE NO EMOTION REMAINS TO CONSUME, THEY WILL TURN TO THE FUNDAMENTAL CONNECTIONS--THE GRAVITONIC STRINGS BETWEEN OBJECTS. THE THREADS BETWEEN MOLECULES.



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6 DAYS LATER.
RISE 'N' SHINE, BARNACLES!
HMNH?
WHAT--?!
USED YA AS AN ASHTRAY WHILE YA WAS SLEEPIN', SINBAD. REALLY HELPED GET THAT ANGER OUT.
ANYWAYS, WE'VE ARRIVED AT TAKRON-GALTOS FOR A DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY, MAIN MAN STYLE.
AND THEN IT'S MAI TAIS 'N' MANICURES UNTIL THE NEXT GIG COMES IN.
I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF A LIFE HERE.
BUT THAT SINGULAR HEARTBEAT IS OVERPOWERED...
...BY THE EXTENSIVE PRESENCE OF DEATH.
I SEE 'EM. A BODY TEMPERATURE THAT LOW MEANS AN ARMY OF REFRIGERATORS...OR BLACK LANTERNS.
FRAG! IF THIS IS A TRAP, THERE'S GONNA BE RENDIN' 'N' TEARIN' AND URINATIN' DOWN NECK HOLES!

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BUT IF IT'S NOT A TRAP, SOMEONE IS ALONE DOWN THERE AGAINST WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OF THOSE DAMNED THINGS.
DOVE, WAIT. YOU MAY BE TOO IMPORTANT TO RISK.
NO. NO ONE FIGHTS THE BLACK LANTERNS ALONE.
SO FAMILIAR AND SO INFURIATING. I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU...
HEY! WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOIN'?! THE DEAL SAYS I DELIVER THE CHICKIE, CLYDE!
NOBODY STEALS THE MAIN MAN'S BOUNTY, ESPECIALLY NOT THE DAMN BOUNTY!
WE MUST APPROACH STRATEGICALLY AND QUIETLY, LOBO--
OH, STUFF IT IN YER HALF-ASS, SINESTRO.
WHEN THE MAIN MAN SHOWS, EVERYBODY KNOWS.
THROOM
HNGH.
WHAT'S UP, PURPLE PANTYWAIST?
SINESTRO?
SOMETHING'S WRONG...THE POWER OF DEATH HERE IS PROFOUNDLY STRONGER THAN ANY I'VE FACED.
AS IF IT HAS CONSUMED AN EVEN GREATER LIFE... FED UPON ETERNITY ITSELF.
GODS...
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WELL?!
DO THE ONLY DAMN THING THAT MAKES IT WORTH KEEPIN' YOUR DECAYIN' ASS AROUND!
HNH! I'M... TRYING.
IT'S... DIFFICULT...THE CORRUPTION OF SUCH GRACEFUL THINGS...
HNH. EVEN I CANNOT RESTORE A FALLEN GOD.
FERGET THIS CRAP. IF I'M GONNA BE LED INTO A TRAP, I'M TAKIN' TROPHIES...
...AN' THE HEAD A' BIG BARDA WILL LOOK MIGHTY GOOD MOUNTED ON THE HOOD OF MY CAR!
TAK
NO!
WHO THE FRAG?

RUN!
THAT WAY! NOW!
PING. PING. PING
MISTER MIRACLE--?!
THROUGH THE BLAST DOOR!
SCOTT. PLEASE. MY LOVE, I MISS YOU.
DON'T LEAVE, M'BOY! GRANNY KNOWS YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO CARE FOR YOU, EVEN WHEN IT HURTS!
COME ON, COME ON...
PING. PING. PING
KEEP GOING! I'VE GOT IT!
SHNNNK
SHOOM
NO!
SCOTT! YOU'RE ONLY DELAYING THE INEVITABLE! WE FOUGHT TOO HARD TO BE TOGETHER TO BE APART NOW!
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THUMTHUM THUMTHUM
IT'LL TAKE THEM A FEW HOURS OR SO TO GET OUT. I MEAN, I WOULD KNOW. MASTER ESCAPE ARTIST AND ALL.
ANYWAY, TOP-NOTCH WORK, LOBO. WORTH EVERY PENNY.
YOU HIRED ME? DARKSEID'S GOOFY STEPKID?!
I BROKE TAKRON-GALTOS'S BANK DOING IT, BUT I FIGURED THEY WEREN'T GONNA MISS IT.
DOVE! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! IT'S BEEN SINCE WHAT--SUPERMAN'S FUNERAL? THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS, RIGHT?
THIS IS A TRAP. BUT NOT FOR US.
FOR THEM.
THUMTHUM THUMTHUM
RIGHT YOU ARE, SINESTRO. MY WIFE AND HER FEMALE FURIES WERE ON MY TAIL. SO I POPPED A BOOM TUBE FOR US ALL HERE AND CRACKED THE PLANETARY SECURITY SYSTEM.
I'VE BEEN GOING CELL TO CELL FOR DAYS, WAITING FOR YOU TO ARRIVE.
IT'S NOT SO BAD, REALLY. EXCEPT FOR THE CONSTANT SCREAMING AND THREATS.
AND THE CRYING.
BARDA NEVER USED TO CRY.

WHY THE DOG 'N' PONY SHOW? YOU GOT A MOTHER BOX, DON'CHA?
PING-PING YOUR FANCY DEVICE, BOOM TUBE THEM BASTITCHES INTO THE NEAREST BLACK HOLE, AND CRACK A BREWSKI!
NO.
SCOTT FREE, BESIDES BEING THE SON OF HIGHFATHER OF NEW GENESIS, HAS A REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE MOST CUNNING MINDS IN THE UNIVERSE.
I ASSUME YOU HAVE A PLAN, MISTER MIRACLE.
PING. PING
I DO. AND IT'S A DOOZY.
SEE, GENESISIAN SCIENCE TELLS US THAT AT THE END OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE IS A BARRIER, CREATED FROM THE CORPSES OF THE PROMETHEAN GIANTS WHO ONCE DOMINATED PRIMEVAL SPACE.
KILOWO SUCKS
THE SOURCE WALL.
BINGO. AND LEGEND HAS IT THAT BEYOND THAT WALL IS THE SOURCE OF ALL...LITERALLY THE COSMIC ENERGY OF CREATION. THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF NOTHING.
UNLEASHED, THE SOURCE IS THE ANTITHESIS OF NEKRON.
PURE LIFE.
BUT THE SOURCE IS CHAOTIC. UNFOCUSED. RANDOM. LIKE WATER.
WHICH MEANS IT TAKES THE SHAPE OF ITS CONTAINER.
AND THUS THE NEED FOR DOVE.
CHOSEN AS AVATAR OF PEACE...BY A LORD OF ORDER.

IF I CAN USE MOTHER BOX TO OPEN THE WALL, I CAN FILTER THE SOURCE THROUGH DOVE, ORDERING IT TO RESURRECT THE BLACK LANTERNS.
LOOK, I'M SORRY I SENT LOBO, DOVE. I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
I WON'T MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING, BUT I THINK YOU CAN HELP TURN THEM BACK. BARDA, THE NEW GODS...EVERY BLACK LANTERN CAN LIVE AGAIN.
WE ONLY NEED ONE MORE PIECE TO HELP FOCUS THE ENERGY.
MY WHITE RING.
WHEN I WAS SEARCHING FOR SOURCES OF LIFE ENERGY, I DETECTED YOU TOO.
AND YOU KNEW I'D COME.
I FIGURED IF I ASKED NICELY YOU'D TELL ME TO BLOW IT OUT MY CAPE. BUT THE ART OF ESCAPE IS ANTICIPATING EVENTS AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUTCOMES.
SO I GAVE YOU A SERIES OF QUESTIONS I KNEW YOU'D FOLLOW. SCIENTISTS, RIGHT?
YOU'VE EARNED YOUR REPUTATION, FREE.
AND I'M AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES.
LOBO, YOU'RE FREE TO GO. I'LL BE SURE TO LEAVE YOU A GLOWING REVIEW.
SAY HI TO YOUR PET SPACE DOLPHINS FOR ME, WOULD YA? I LOVE THOSE GUYS.
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UNLESS... THERE'S A REASON FOR YOU TO STAY?
I'M ONTA YOU, SCOTTY. IF YOU YAHOOS MESS THIS UP, ALL MY DAMN MONEY WON'T BE WORTH SQUAT ANYWAY. AND IF EVERYONE'S A BLACK LANTERN, WHO'S GONNA MIX MY MARTINIS?
I'M GOIN'. CONSIDER IT PROTECTIN' MY INVESTMENT.
NOW I'M GONNA GO WARM UP RAMONA, 'CUZ IF I'M HOPPIN' THROUGH A FRAGGIN' BOOM TUBE ACROSS THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, I'M DOIN' IT IN COMFORT.
I'LL BE FINISHING UP SOME CALCULATIONS ON MOTHER BOX. IT'D BE A SHAME TO HAVE THE KEY TO SALVATION AND ACCIDENTALLY TELEPORT INTO THE MIDDLE OF AN ASTEROID.
WE LEAVE IN TEN!
THUMTHUM THUMTHUM
MY WHITE RING. YOU KEEP LOOKING AT IT.
SORRY. IT'S JUST...

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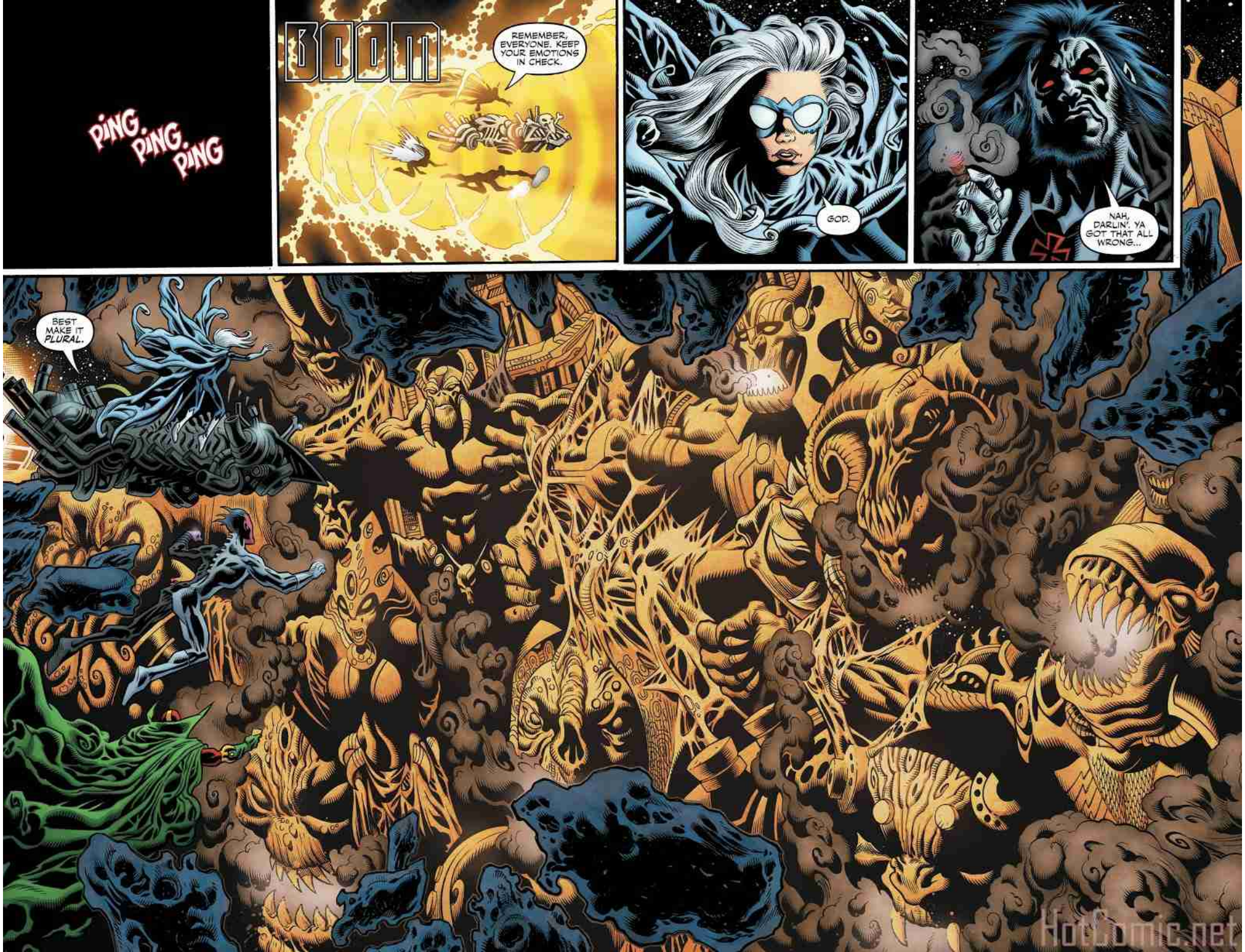
...AFTER THE BLACK LANTERN INFECTION SPREAD, MY OLD PARTNER, *HAWK*... *HANK HALL*, CAME AFTER ME. FOLLOWED THAT EMOTIONAL "TETHER" OUT OF THE GRAVE, I GUESS.
"HE KNEW WITH MY POWERS HE COULDN'T HURT ME, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS TAUNTING. PRODDING. ALWAYS KNOWING WHAT TO SAY TO GET UNDER MY SKIN.
"HE TOLD ME THE LORD OF ORDER MADE A MISTAKE IN CHOOSING ME. TOLD ME I WAS ALONE AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
"IT WENT FOR DAYS AT A TIME. AND SOONER OR LATER IT GOT TO ME. HERE WAS THIS PERSON, WHO I KNEW AND LOVED BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, SAYING THERE WAS *NO HOPE*.
"SO I RAN. FLEW ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO TITANS TOWER.
"I GUESS I THOUGHT I COULD START OVER. A CLEAN SLATE. BUT *CHAOS* FOLLOWED ME.
THEN YOU SHOWED UP WITH THOSE RINGS.
LIFE AND DEATH IN HARMONY. BALANCE. A PERFECT ORDER.
I THOUGHT IT MUST BE A SIGN.
THIS CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.
THIS MUST BE WHY I WAS *CHOSEN*...



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ONCE I OPEN A MINIATURE BOOM TUBE THROUGH THE WALL WITH MOTHER BOX, SINESTRO WILL CHANNEL THE ENERGY INTO THIS VEST.
I CALL IT THE RESURRECTION HARNESS. COOL NAMES ARE KIND OF PART OF THE DEAL.
LOBO, COVER US.
DOVE, YOU READY TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE?
YOU BEST NOT MESS THIS UP, CIRCUS CLOWN. I GOT A HANGNAIL LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE AND IT'S MAKIN' ME CRANKY.
WE WILL ESCAPE THIS HELL, I PROMISE.
GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY, HALF-COCKED?
YOU, THE SCOURGE OF CZARNIA, THE MOST FEARED BOUNTY HUNTER IN THE GALAXY...
...YOU CARE FOR HER.
PFFH. SURE, CLYDE.
LIKE YOU'D EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE.
AND EVEN IF I DID, THE MAIN MAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS EMOTIONS IN--
AH.
FEETAL'S GIZZ.
BOOM
YOU IMBECILE! YOU'VE LED THEM RIGHT TO--
HorComic.net

BOOM
NO...
I FELT IT. ACROSS THE EMPTY SPACES, FATHER.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LET YOURSELF HAVE HOPE, SINESTRO.
YOU IMMEDIATELY FEEL THE OPPOSITE.
FEAR. FEAR THAT EVERYONE WILL KNOW YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FAILED THE UNIVERSE.
THAT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE END OF IT ALL!
SORANIK!
JORDAN--!
NO! SINESTRO CAUSED ALL THIS?
HE CERTAINLY BELIEVES SO.
YOU KNEW?
GUILT WORKS EVEN BETTER THAN SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY.
OH, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL MY DADDY DID.
HIS TRAIL OF WHINING AND ANGST ALSO LED US TO TAKRON-GALTOS, WHERE WE WERE ABLE TO SET UP SUCH A LOVELY REUNION...

"...BETWEEN THE FURIES OF APOKOLIPS...
"...AND THE NEW AVATAR OF OUR GREAT LORD, NEKRON...
"...DARKSEID."
I HAVE BECOME ANTI-LIFE INCARNATE.
PREPARE YOURSELVES...
HotComic.net

"...FOR DEATH!"
PING. PING. PING.
SCOTT. THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE. YOU NEED TO FOCUS SO WE CAN FIX THIS.
AWAITING SOURCE INPUT.
BARDA.
LOBO! A DARKSEID POSSESSED BY NEKRON...THEIR COMBINED POWER IS IMMEASURABLE!
SHUT UP AND LEMME DO MY DAMN JOB!

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YOU TOOK THE WHITE LIGHT MEANT FOR *US*, SINESTRO.
KEPT IT ALL FOR *YOURSELF*, BAD BOY.
AND NOW WE WILL TAKE WHAT'S LEFT OF *YOUR HEART!*
LARFLEEZE.
STAR SAPPHIRE.
ATROCITUS.
"THE COLOR CORPS."

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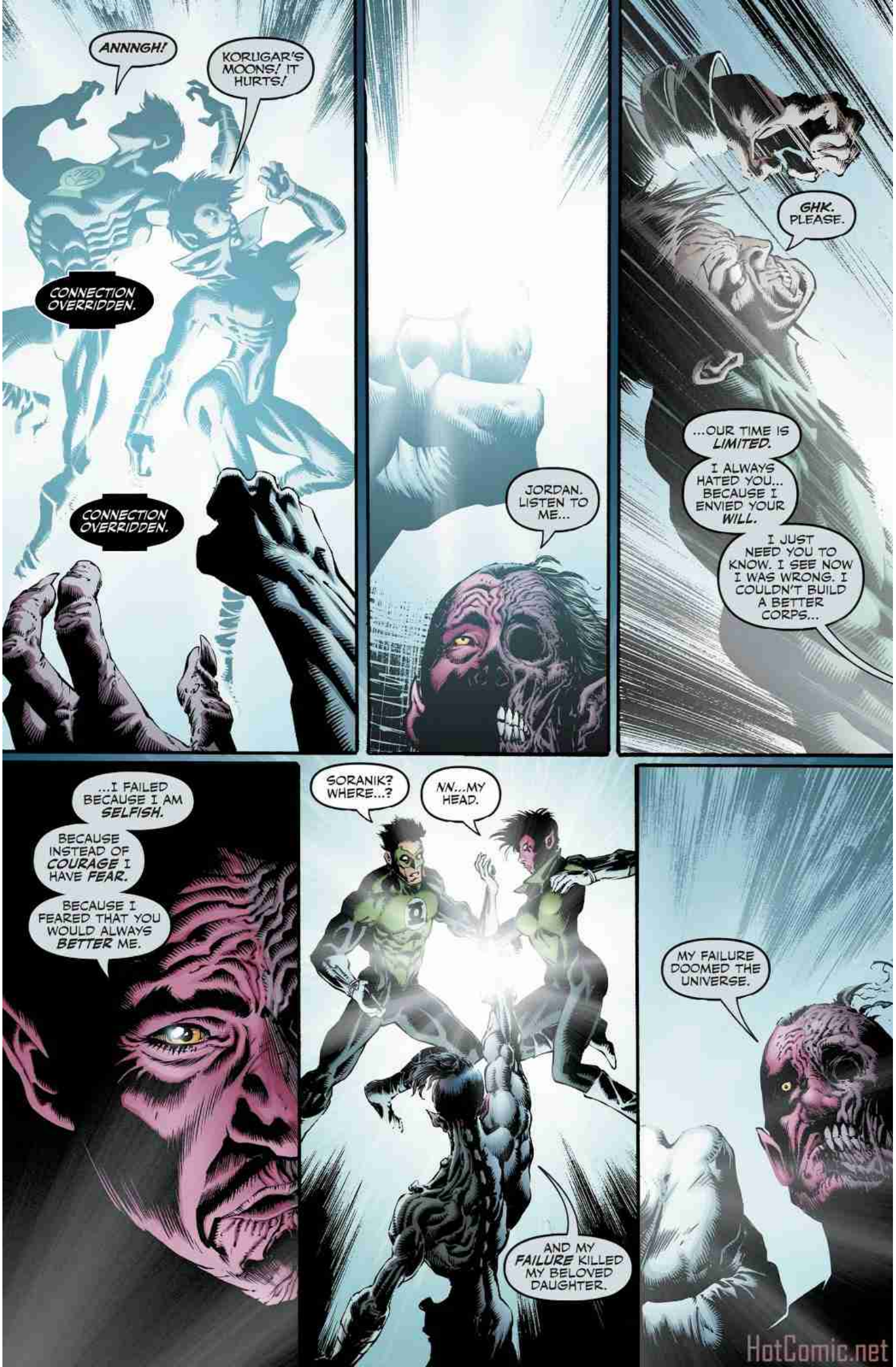
GET AWAY FROM ME, JORDAN!
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS LIVE. TO SAVE OTHERS SO THEY COULD, TOO.
AND I LIVED TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR EVIL, FATHER. I GAVE MY LIFE TO UNDO YOUR DESTRUCTION.
SORANIK. STOP. PLEASE!
PING. PING. PING
SINESTRO! WE NEED YOU!
GIVE THEM THE LIGHT AND GET OUT OF THERE!
NO! I CANNOT!
CHNK
AGHK!
I CANNOT FACE THEM--
SORANIK NATU OF KORUGAR.
HAL JORDAN OF EARTH.
LIVE.


ANNNGH!
KORUGAR'S MOONS! IT HURTS!
CONNECTION OVERRIDDEN.
CONNECTION OVERRIDDEN.
JORDAN. LISTEN TO ME...
GHK. PLEASE.
...OUR TIME IS LIMITED.
I ALWAYS HATED YOU... BECAUSE I ENVIED YOUR WILL.
I JUST NEED YOU TO KNOW. I SEE NOW I WAS WRONG. I COULDN'T BUILD A BETTER CORPS...
...I FAILED BECAUSE I AM SELFISH.
BECAUSE INSTEAD OF COURAGE I HAVE FEAR.
BECAUSE I FEARED THAT YOU WOULD ALWAYS BETTER ME.
SORANIK? WHERE...?
NN...MY HEAD.
AND MY FAILURE KILLED MY BELOVED DAUGHTER.
MY FAILURE DOOMED THE UNIVERSE.
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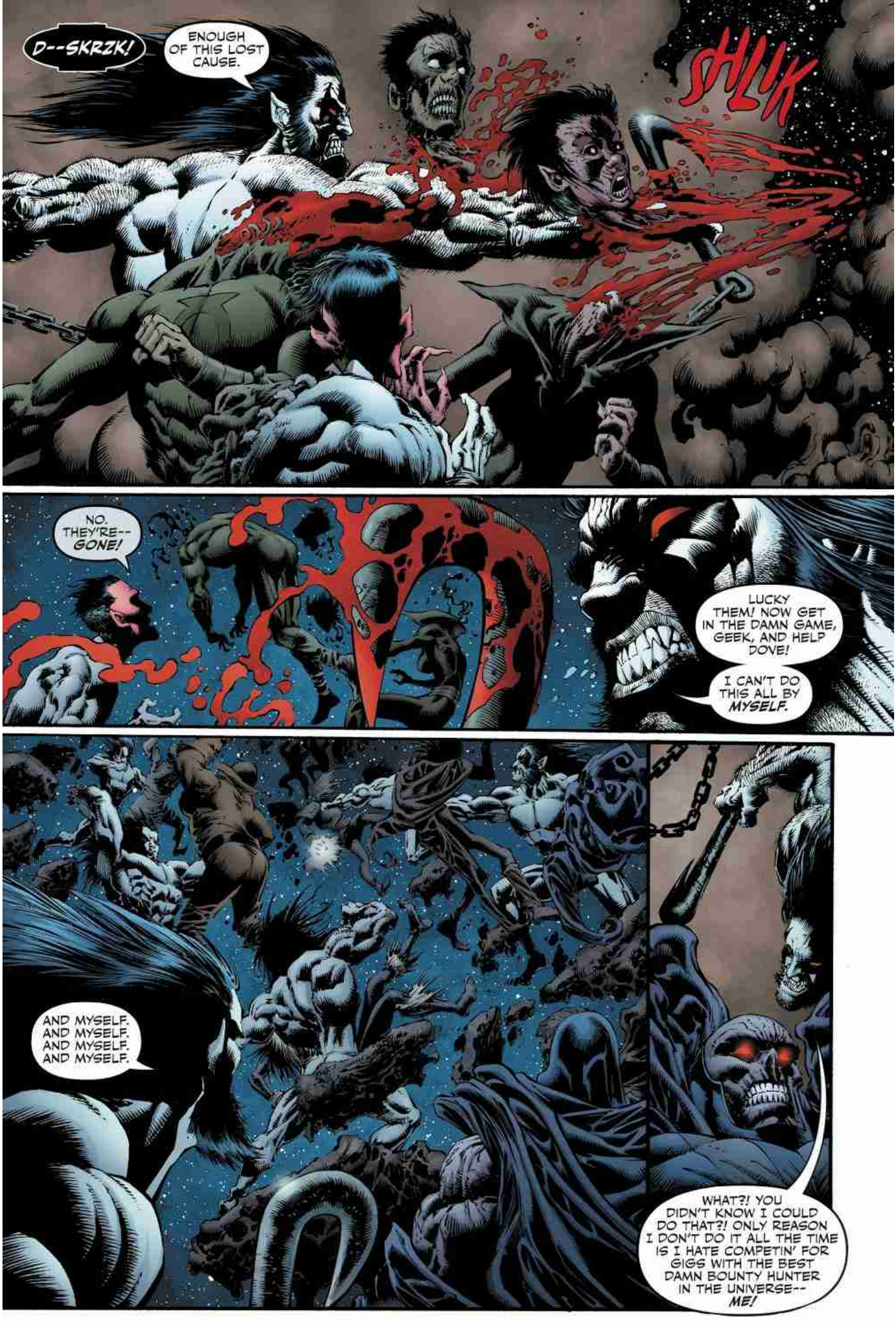
PLEASE. FORGIVE ME.
THAAL. I...YOU DID IT.
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE GREATEST OF US.
IF ONLY...
IF-- ONLY--
HNH.
ANH.
AAAHHH!
AIIIIGH!
NO.
HAL JORDAN OF EARTH.
AH. N-NO... PLEASE...DAD... NOT AGAIN...
SORANIK NATU OF KORUGAR.


D--SKRZK!
ENOUGH OF THIS LOST CAUSE.
SHLIK
NO. THEY'RE-- GONE!
LUCKY THEM! NOW GET IN THE DAMN GAME, GEEK, AND HELP DOVE!
I CAN'T DO THIS ALL BY MYSELF.
AND MYSELF. AND MYSELF. AND MYSELF. AND MYSELF.
WHAT?! YOU DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO THAT?! ONLY REASON I DON'T DO IT ALL THE TIME IS I HATE COMPETIN' FOR GIGS WITH THE BEST DAMN BOUNTY HUNTER IN THE UNIVERSE-- ME!

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NOW LET'S SEE YA TRY THAT FANCY EYE-BEAM WITHOUT THEM BABY REDS!
PLUK
AGGH!
AIIIGHK
NOW, SINESTRO! WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED! DIRECT THE SOURCE!
HRNGH. YOUR CREATION OF LIFE...
...OFFENDS ME.
GAH!
THKOOM
ALMOST THERE!
PING. HARNESS INITIATED. LINKED. MINI BOOM TUBE...
ACTIVATED.
BOOM
I FEEL IT!
THE SOURCE OF ALL CREATION!

HARNESS READY.
UNLEASH IT, MIRACLE. NOW!
STOP, MY SON!
DO THIS, AND I PROMISE YOU...
...YOU WILL NEVER SEE YOUR BELOVED WIFE AGAIN.
AND WHY WOULD I LISTEN TO YOU, DARKSEID? THE GREAT AND MIGHTY RULER OF APOKOLIPS IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN UGLY SUIT FOR NEKRON NOW!
I HAVE SPENT MY LIFE SEEKING TO ELIMINATE FREE WILL. NEKRON FOUND THE SOLUTION. HIS WORD IS THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.
BUT THE POWER OF THE AVATAR OF ORDER WILL NOT REVERSE THAT. INSTEAD IT WILL DESTROY IT. ELIMINATE CHAOS AS IS ITS NATURE. START ANEW.
DON'T BELIEVE ME? TAKE IT FROM YOUR NEW COMPANION, THAAL SINESTRO.
MY BLACK HAND BECKONS YOU TO SPEAK TRUTH, LANTERN.
HNGHK!
NH. Y-YES. IT'S TRUE. I FEEL IT IN THE WHITE RING.
DOVE'S POWERS WILL DIRECT THE SOURCE TO SCOUR THE UNIVERSE OF THE BLACK LANTERN SCOURGE, AND RESTORE HARMONY...
...IN THE FORM OF A CLEAN SLATE.

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YOU WILL SURVIVE, SCOTT FREE. AS AN IMMORTAL YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER IN A NEW UNIVERSE...
...WHERE BARDA WILL NEVER EXIST AGAIN.
SCOTT. LET THIS HAPPEN. ALL THAT HAS TO SURVIVE FOR A BETTER UNIVERSE IS HOPE.
BUT...
PLEASE. WE WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS.
IT'S OUR DESTINY.
NO TIME FOR COLD FEET NOW, TINKERBELL!
HNF!
BEST THING TO DO IS KILL 'EM ALL AND START FRESH! I DID IT ONCE WITH CZARNIA...I'LL DO IT AGAIN WITH THESE STINKIN' LANTERNS!
NOT WITHOUT BARDA...
DAWN.
I'M SORRY.
GHK!

SNAP
NO!
YOU SELFISH BASTARD! DON'T YOU SEE? IT WAS UGLY. ALL OF IT. MY WORLD. THE UNIVERSE. I KNEW IT. EVERY TIME SOMEONE HIRED ME, THEY PROVED ME RIGHT.
BUT DOVE...
...I SAW IT IN HER LIGHT, MAN! SHE WAS PURE AND GOOD AND PEACEFUL! AFTER BLACK LANTERNS TOOK MY DOLPHINS SHE WAS THE ONLY BEAUTIFUL THING LEFT IN THE DAMN UNIVERSE, MAN!
SPLUCH
NOW, 'CUZ A' YOU, ALL THERE'LL EVER BE IS THIS FRAGGIN' UGLINESS!!
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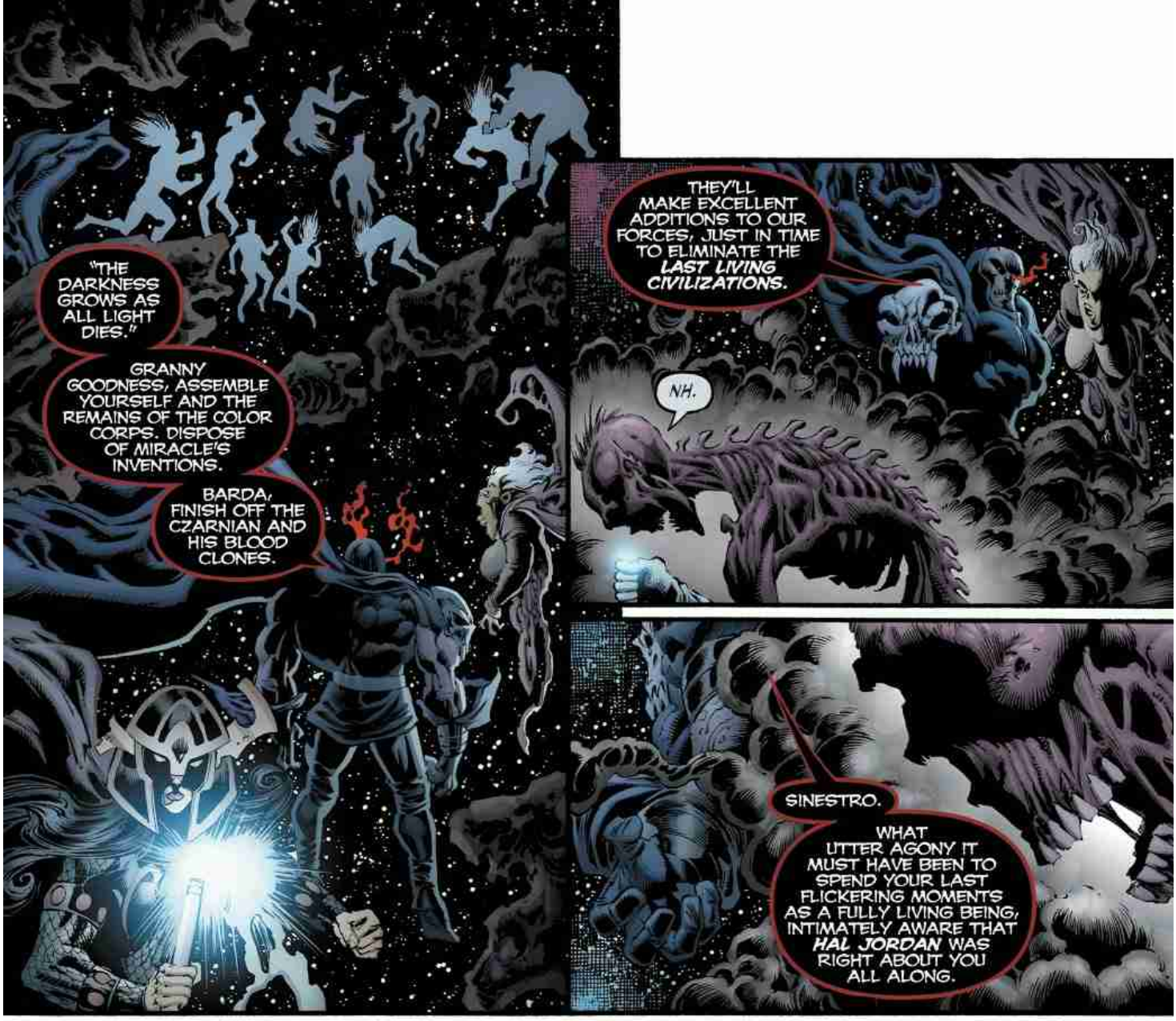
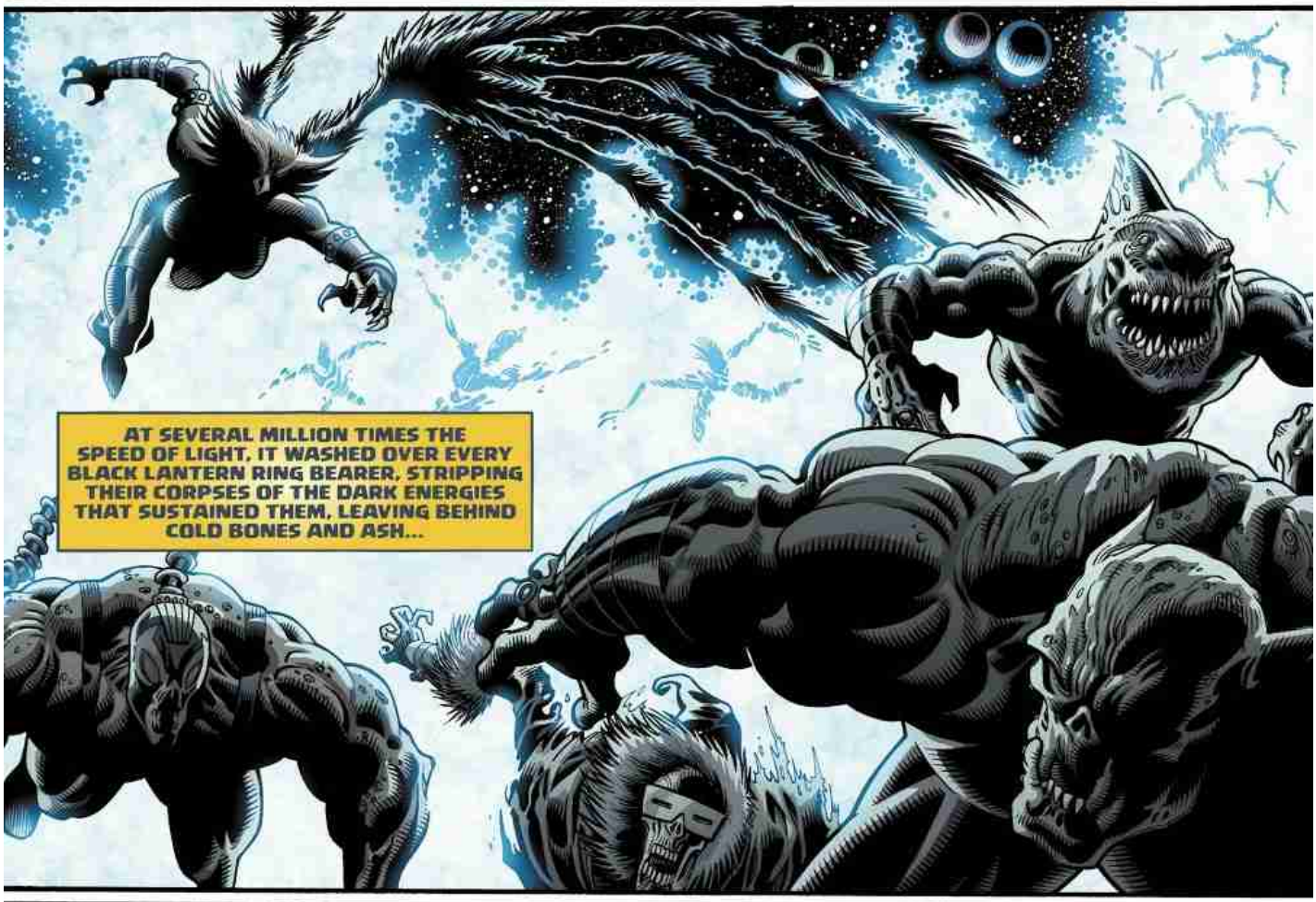

"THE DARKNESS GROWS AS ALL LIGHT DIES."
GRANNY GOODNESS, ASSEMBLE YOURSELF AND THE REMAINS OF THE COLOR CORPS. DISPOSE OF MIRACLE'S INVENTIONS.
BARDA, FINISH OFF THE CZARNIAN AND HIS BLOOD CLONES.
THEY'LL MAKE EXCELLENT ADDITIONS TO OUR FORCES, JUST IN TIME TO ELIMINATE THE LAST LIVING CIVILIZATIONS.
NH.
SINESTRO.
WHAT UTTER AGONY IT MUST HAVE BEEN TO SPEND YOUR LAST FLICKERING MOMENTS AS A FULLY LIVING BEING, INTIMATELY AWARE THAT HAL JORDAN WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU ALL ALONG.

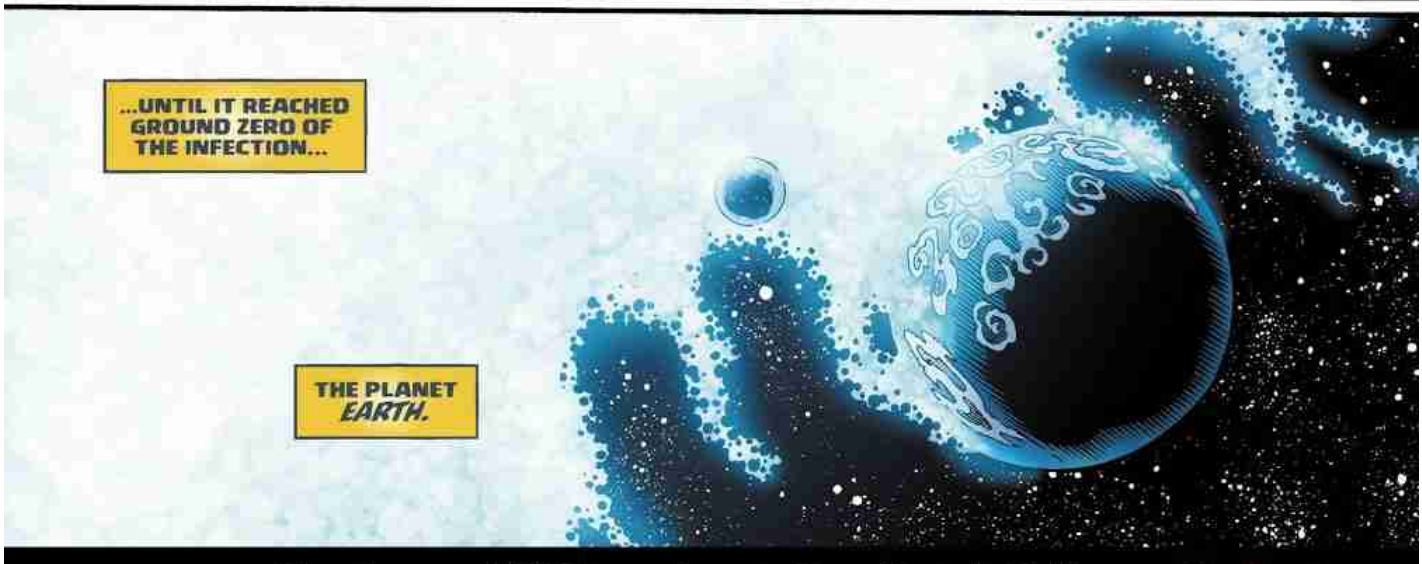
I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOU'VE TRULY SOUGHT, THAAL. WHAT THE LINGERING LIGHT IN THE WHITE RING TOOK FROM YOU EVEN AS ITS ENERGY TORE THROUGH YOUR BRAIN.
I CAN GIVE YOU OBLIVION.
I...
NO.
JORDAN IS GONE. THERE'S ONLY THAAL SINESTRO NOW. I SURVIVED WHILE THE REST OF THEM DIED...

...BECAUSE JORDAN WAS *RIGHT!*
I WAS--*AM* THE GREATEST LANTERN OF ALL.
I AM *WILL* INCARNATE!
I AM *LIFE!*
AND I *REFUSE* TO FAIL AGAIN!
THE *LIFE SOURCE* IS LIKE WATER. IT TAKES THE SHAPE OF ITS *CONTAINER.*
SHRAK
SHRAK
BUT DOVE WAS *NOT* THE ONLY SOURCE LEFT.

LOBO.
GUH--
HIS CELLS REGENERATE AT HIS WHIM. HE CREATES LIFE FROM BLOOD.
IN THE PLACE OF DOVE, HE WILL DIRECT THE SOURCE ENERGY!
THE FRAG--?!
THE MAN WHO MURDERED HIS ENTIRE PLANET AND COUNTLESS OTHERS IS OUR BEST CHANCE TO DEFEAT DEATH!
THIS IS YOUR DUTY, CZARNIAN!
MY FAILURES WERE SIMPLY MEANT TO LEAD ME HERE!
THIS IS MY DESTINY.
PING
CREATION SHALL BE REMADE IN MY IMAGE!

RAAAHH!
FEEL IT, NEKRON.
NO--
THE PRIMAL PULSE OF INCEPTION...
THE ERADICATION OF DEATH.
YOU DID IT.
HA.
HAHA HAHAHA!
HA--


AT SEVERAL MILLION TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT, IT WASHED OVER EVERY BLACK LANTERN RING BEARER, STRIPPING THEIR CORPSES OF THE DARK ENERGIES THAT SUSTAINED THEM, LEAVING BEHIND COLD BONES AND ASH...



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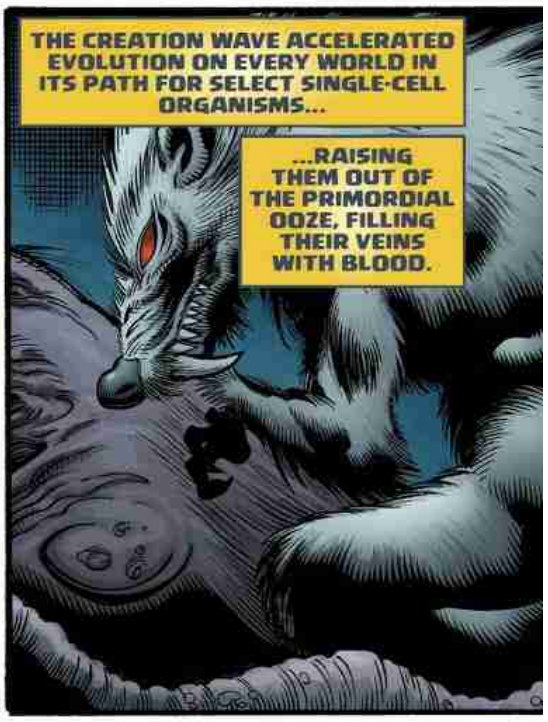
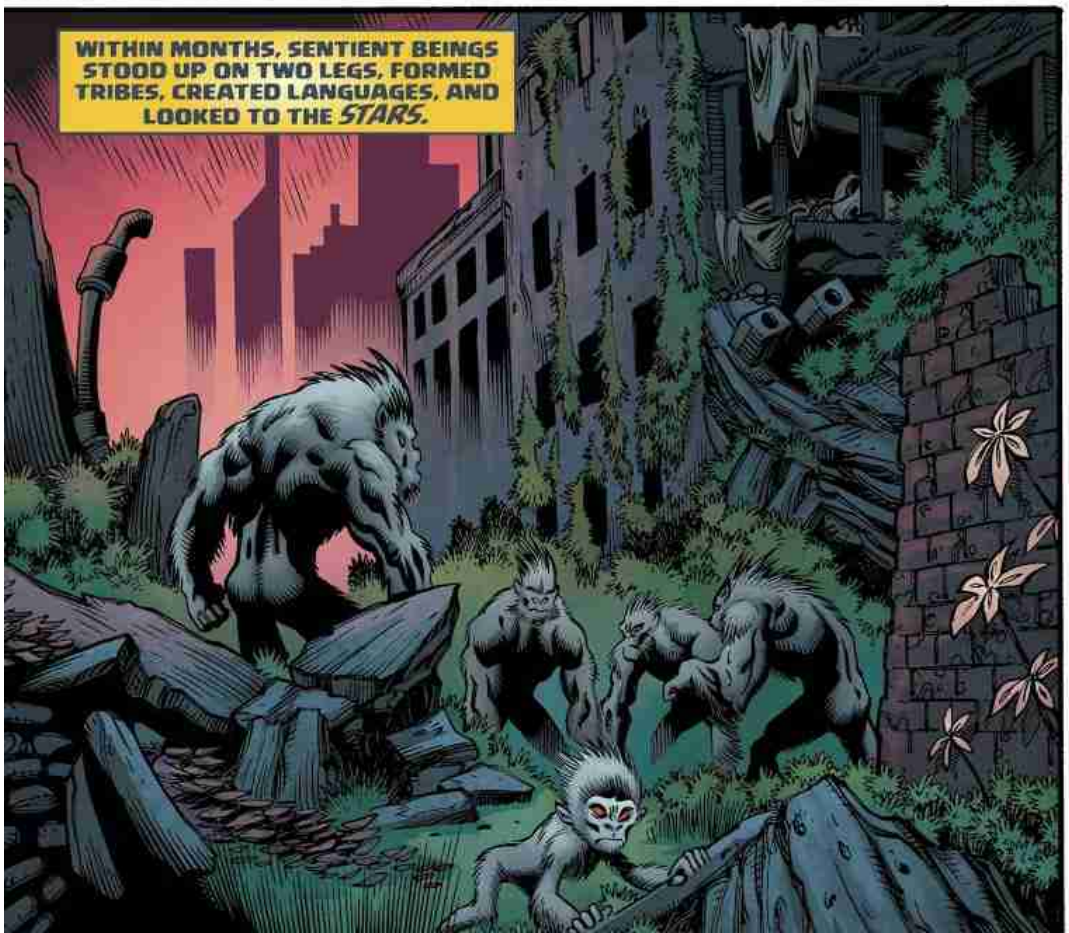
AS PROMISED, ANNIHILATION OF THE PLAGUE WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE WAVE'S EFFECTS.

FROM DEATH...
...SPRANG NEW LIFE.


THE CREATION WAVE ACCELERATED EVOLUTION ON EVERY WORLD IN ITS PATH FOR SELECT SINGLE-CELL ORGANISMS...
...RAISING THEM OUT OF THE PRIMORDIAL OOZE, FILLING THEIR VEINS WITH BLOOD.


WITHIN MONTHS, SENTIENT BEINGS STOOD UP ON TWO LEGS, FORMED TRIBES, CREATED LANGUAGES, AND LOOKED TO THE *STARS.*

IN EACH OF THEM, THE IMAGE OF A *SINGULAR PROGENITOR* WAS LOCKED IN THEIR GENETIC MEMORIES...

HotComics

A NEW GOD.
LOBO.
THE SOURCE ENERGY IS LIKE WATER, TAKING THE FORM OF ITS CONTAINER.
AND SO EVERY NEW SPECIES BORN TO REPLACE THOSE LOST TO NEKRON TOOK ON DISTINCT ASPECTS OF THE LAST CZARNIAN.
THESE NEW BEINGS' FIRST IMPULSES WERE TO DESTROY AND EXPLOIT THE LAST OF THE OLD CIVILIZATIONS.
HATE AND VIOLENT TENDENCIES AS MUCH A PART OF THEM AS DNA.
WITHIN MONTHS, THEY HAD TAKEN TO THE STARS, URGED ON BY THEIR INSTINCTS TO ELIMINATE ALL COMPETITION, OR TAKE REVENGE FOR THE SMALLEST PERCEIVED SLIGHT.
AND WATCHING IT ALL FROM AFAR WAS THE ARCHITECT OF THIS NEW UNIVERSE...
...THAAL SINESTRO, THE LIMBO LANTERN.
HotComic.net

NOW, SINESTRO PURSUES ANY MEANS OF ESCAPING HIS MISTAKE.
HE SEEKS TEARS IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME SO THAT HE MIGHT BURN HIS WAY INTO A NEW REALITY.
BUT MINE IS THE POWER TO MEND AND DEFEND.
LET ME THROUGH!
I DEMAND IT!
NOOOOO!
AND SO I MUST SEAL OFF THIS BLIGHTED COSMOS BEFORE IT CAN POLLUTE OUR OWN.
I HAVE SEEN THE TRUE BLACKEST NIGHT.
IT IS THE ONE WHERE BROKEN WORLDS GO, TUMBLING INTO THE BOWELS OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE...
...WHERE NO BRIGHT LANTERNS SHALL EVER SHINE.
NEXT: INFINITE CRISIS!
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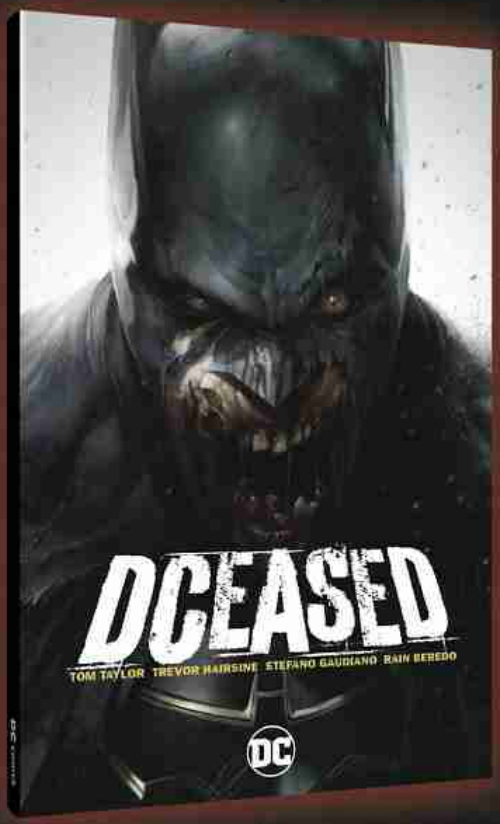
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HEROES WHEN THE WORLD ENDS?

DCEASED

WRITTEN BY TOM TAYLOR ART BY TREVOR HAIRSINE AND STEFANO GAUDIANO



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"They will devour and spread
until there is nothing left...
but the black spaces
between stars."

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